POL 23 9 GREECE

# INCOMING TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Action NEA
Info SS GPM SP SC SAH L H P CU NSC INR NEC AID O SY PER FBO OPR OC SCA SCS RSR

P 211840Z APR 67
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
STATE GRNC
BT

1967 APR 21 PM 3 27

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 4751
REF: ATHENS 4774

FOLLOWING IS

[redacted] B-4

1. A MILITARY COUP IN ATHENS TODAY DEPOSED THE 17-DAY-OLD CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT OF PREMIER PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS, AND AFTER PROCLAIMING A "STATE OF SIEGE" SET UP A GOVERNMENT UNDER THE 66-YEAR-OLD PROSECUTOR OF THE GREEK SUPREME COURT CONSTANTINE KOLLIAS. LT.GENERAL GREGORIOS SPANDIDAKIS, CHIEF OF THE GREEK ARMY GENERAL STAFF BECAME DEPUTY PREMIER AND DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. THE NEW CABINET WAS SWORN IN AT 7 P.M., ACCORDING TO THE ATHENS ARMED FORCES RADIO, IN THE PRESENCE OF 26-YEAR-OLD KING CONSTANTINE.

3. THIS DEVELOPMENT CAME 19 HOURS AFTER THE GREEK ARMY ANNOUNCED IT HAD TAKEN OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NATION "IN VIEW OF THE ABNORMAL SITUATION PREVAILING." A CURFEW WAS IMPOSED AT SUNSET AND THE TROOPS HAD ORDERS TO SHOOT ANYONE STRAYING IN THE STREETS.

4. THE TAKEOVER WAS EFFECTED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT. AS TANKS WITH MACHINE GUNS OUT OF THEIR TURRETS MOVED TO BLOCK OFF PARLIAMENT, MILITARY PATROLS ARRESTED BY 3A.M. THE PREMIER, AND MOST OF HIS MINISTERS, GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

5. PREMIER KANELLOPOULOS WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY FORCE WHEN HE PUT UP RESISTANCE TO THE PATROL HEADED BY AN ARMY CAPTAIN.

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6. AS ALL CITY TELEPHONES WERE CUT OFF, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK RUMORS ABOUT OTHER ARRESTS WHICH INCLUDED CENTER UNION LEADER EX-PREMIER GEORGE PAPANDREOU AND HIS SON ANDREAS, AS WELL AS ES-PREMIER STEFANOS STEFANOPOULOS, POLICE CHIEF ARHONDOULAKIS AND KING CONSTANTINE'S PERSONAL SECRETARY MAJOR MICHAEL ARNAOUTIS, AS WELL AS MANY JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING UPI CORRESPONDENT GEORGE ANDROULIDAKIS.

7. NEWS OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS BROADCAST OVER ATHENS ARMED FORCES RADIO AT 6:40 A.M. TODAY.

8. THE SPEAKER ASSERTED KING CONSTANTINE HAD SIGNED A ROYAL DECREE SUSPENDING ELEVEN ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION.

9. THIS, THE SPEAKER EXPLAINED, MEANT A STATE OF SIEGE. UNDER THIS ANYONE COULD BE SUMMARILY ARRESTED AND COMMITTED TO TRIAL BY EXTRAORDINARY COURTS MARTIAL. MEETINGS WERE BANNED AND WOULD BE DISSOLVED, IF NECESSARY, BY USE OF ARMS. STRIKES WERE BANNED AND HOUSE SEARCHES COULD BE EFFECTED WITHOUT WARRANT AT ANY TIME. ALL INFORMATION MEDIA WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO CENSORSHIP AND SO WERE ALL MEANS OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH ABROAD.

10. POLITICAL AND PRESS OFFENSES WOULD BE TRIED BY SPECIAL COURTS MARTIAL.

11. A LIST OF PROHIBITIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE RADIO SAID TRADERS HIDING FOODSTUFFS WOULD BE COURTMARTIALLED FOR "SABOTAGE."

12. THE STOCK EXCHANGE WAS CLOSED, BANK DEPOSITS FROZEN, AND THE PURCHASE OF GOLD AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BANNED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

13. SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES WERE SUSPENDED.

EXEMPT
TALBOT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 4-21-67 4:50PM
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, CIA, DOD, NSA, USIA 4-21-67 4:50P

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